

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN GERMANY

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES ITALY

USCINCEUR VAIHAIGEN GERMANY

CINCUSAREUR HAEIDLEBERG GERMANY

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 127871

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, CY

SUBJECT: GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS

1. MINISTER OF GERMAN EMBASSY (NOEBEL) INFORMED DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY STABLER THAT GERMAN EMBASSY ANKARA HAD RECENTLY SENT "ALARMING" REPORT ABOUT TURKISH CONCERNS OVER POSSIBLE UNILATERAL MOVE BY GREECE TO EXTEND ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS TO 12 MILES. (IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION GERMAN OFFICER TOLD US COUNSELOR OF GERMAN EMBASSY ANKARA HAD BEEN INFORMED BY SOYSAL THAT GOT WOULD REGARD SUCH MOVE AS CASUS BELLI.)

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2. STABLER RESPONDED BY INDICATING WE UNDERSTOOD GOG HAD MADE DECISION TO EXTEND ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS TO 12 MILES, BUT WE DID NOT KNOW WHEN DECISION WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED AND SPECIFICALLY WHETHER IT WOULD BE PUT INTO EFFECT BEFORE CARACAS LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE. STABLER STRESSED OUR CONCERN OVER THIS ISSUE NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF ITS IMPLICATIONS IN TERMS OF POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN TWO NATO ALLIES BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF OUR GENERAL VIEWS OF TERRITORIAL SEA AND FREE PASSAGE QUESTIONS. HE ADDED THAT WE WERE CAREFULLY STUDYING WHOLE PROBLEM

OF GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS BUT WE HAD NOT YET DECIDED ON WHAT USEFUL STEPS MIGHT BE TAKEN AT THIS TIME. IN ANY CASE, WE HOPED THAT GREEK AND TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NEXT WEEK'S OTTAWA NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING TO DISCUSS THEIR PROBLEMS.

3. NOEBEL ALSO REPORTED (A) BULGARIA GOVERNMENT HAD TOLD GREEK EMBASSY SOFIA THAT IT WAS AGAINST THE AEGEAN'S BECOMING A TOTALLY "GREEK" SEA (B) GERMAN AMBASSADOR HEADING LOS DELEGATION HAD INDICATED HE WAS INCLINED TO SUPPORT TURKISH LEGAL POSITION ON AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE AND (C) GERMAN EMBASSY WOULD INFORM DEPARTMENT OF ANY STEPS FRG MIGHT TAKE TO HELP AVOID GREEK-TURKISH CONFRONTATION. SISCO

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